



Division of Water Resources / State Revolving Fund Loan Program

William R. Snodgrass TN Tower, 12th Floor
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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

For the Proposed Project of Chattanooga (Hamilton County), Tennessee

Loan Nos. CW6 2018-405 and SRF 2018-406

October 20, 2017

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (Department) State Revolving Fund Loan Program has conducted a review of the above-referenced project in accordance with the Operating Agreement between the Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for implementing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Program. The Department has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Accordingly, the Department is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under the Department's EPA-approved National Environmental Policy Act-like environmental review process.

The project consists of improvements to the Moccasin Bend Wastewater Treatment Plant (MBWWTP) and the construction of a new 10 million gallon (MG) wastewater storage tank and pump station. Improvements to the MBWWTP include the rehabilitation of the gravity thickeners, thickener pumping station, and grinder units; replacement of the digester pumps; rehabilitation of the dewatering building; construction of a new 1.1 MG sludge holding tank; and installation of additional centrifuges. The total estimated project cost is \$18,100,000. The City of Chattanooga has applied for two CWSRF loans totaling \$18,100,000. The first loan (CW6 2018-405) is for \$1,000,000 with a \$900,000 loan and \$100,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid by the City of Chattanooga. The second loan (SRF 2018-401) is for \$17,100,000.

The project is eligible for a CE because undertaking this action:

1. Will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters
2. Will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or load of pollutants
3. Will not provide capacity to serve a population 30 percent greater than the existing population
4. Will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment
5. Will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resources areas
6. Is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy

The determination shall become effective upon its distribution by the Department and can be revoked at any time that adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision will be on file with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's State Revolving Fund Loan Program and available for public scrutiny upon request. If you wish to comment or to challenge this CE, send your written comment(s) to:

Mr. Sherwin Smith, Director
Division of Water Resources, State Revolving Fund Loan Program
William R. Snodgrass TN Tower, 12th Floor
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or call or e-mail (615) 532-0166 or sherwin.smith@tn.gov.